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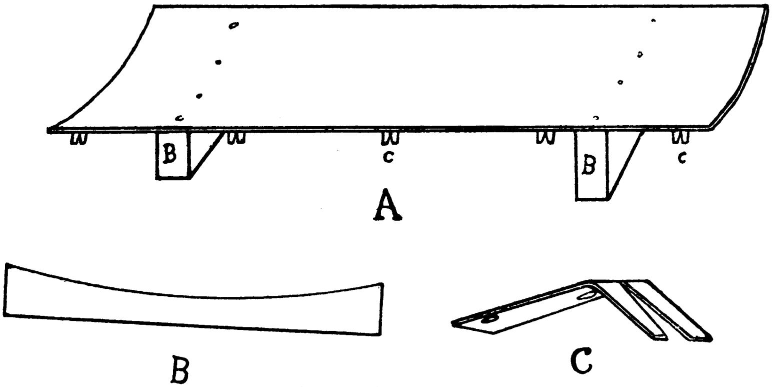
A SATISFACTORY DISSECTING BOARD

The dissecting of the cat, dogfish and some of the smaller animals caused in my laboratory, as I presume it has in others, a demand for an adequate dissecting board. In taking charge of a course in cat anatomy seven years ago there came into my possession also some dissecting boards supplied with plumb-bobs and strings for spreading and holding the specimens in place. Such trays are little if any better than a plain board with nails driven in the sides to which the strings may be tied. Both of these types were replaced by the simple piece of apparatus herein described which has given complete satisfaction.



Details of Dissecting Board.

The principle part of the device consists of a board 70 cm. long, 40 cm. wide and 12 mm. thick screwed to two cross pieces B 30 mm. thick, one of which is 55 mm. high and the other 75 mm. high. These pieces are cut in such a way as to give a dish to the board 12 mm. deep. The difference in the heighth of the two pieces gives a sufficient slope to carry away any liquid that might come from the specimen. To either side of the board are fastened five iron cleats as shown in the figure (A). Each cleat C is bent at an angle of 120° and the free end, 15 mm. long, carries a V-shaped slot for its full length. The slot at its open end is 4 mm. wide The specimen is held in place and spread by means of pieces of Jack-chain (No. 16 or 18) 20 cm. long provided with fish-hooks with the barbs removed. After the hooks have been attached to the animal the chains are drawn into the slots of the cleats where they are held firmly.

University of Utah. NEWTON MILLER.

MECHANISM OF MENDELIAN HERIDITY

In a book bearing this title T. H. Morgan and co-workers have undertaken to bring to the general biologist the significant steps that have been made by the geneticists in the study of inheritance, and the correlation of these results with the discoveries made by the students of the minute structure of the germ cells. It is perfectly apparent that these cells, the egg and the sperm, must contain the mechanism by which hereditary qualities are handled from generation to generation. It is manifest that the wonderful results which the Mendelians have been able to get by breeding experiments will be explained, if ever, only through the study of the minute units of cytoptasmic and nuclear structure, which must be their material basis.

As is well known the author strongly supports the view that the chromosomes are the particular part of the protoplasm which determines such hereditary phenomena as follow the Mendelian principles. No cytological work has done more to discover the facts which tend to support this view than the brilliant investigations of Professors Wilson and Morgan and their students in Columbia University.

This book brings together the wonderful series of parallels between the observed conditions of the chromosomes and the statistical behavior of unit characters in breeding, which we describe collectively as Mendelian. For example, the observed segregation of chromosomes in the genesis of the germ cells coincides remarkably with the theoretical demands of the Mendelian principles of segregation resulting in the "purity of the gametes." Similarly there has been established in some organisms a parallelism between the number of chromosomes and the number of hereditary *groups* of characters; also in some degree between the size of the chromosomes and the size of these groups of characters.